

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claim 1 with the following claim 1:

- Sub E1
A1*
1. (Amended) A decorative or shiny coating for an article, said coating comprising:
a first layer comprised of polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article; and
a second layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said first layer.

Please cancel claims 2 through 44.

Please add new claims 45 through 63 as follows:

- Sub E1
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A2*
45. (New) The coating of claim 1 wherein said first layer of polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyester, polymethacrylate, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, alkyd resin, polyethylene, and blends and copolymers thereof.
46. (New) The coating of claim 1 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, a carbide, or a carbonitride of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy.
47. (New) The coating of claim 1 further comprising a third layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said second layer.
48. (New) A decorative or shiny coating for an article, said coating comprising:

*Sub E1
cont 2*
a first layer comprised of polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article;

a second layer selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy on said first layer; and

a third layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said second layer.

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A2*
49. (New) The coating of claim 48 wherein said first layer of polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyester, polymethacrylate, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, alkyd resin, polyethylene, and blends and copolymers thereof.

50. (New) The coating of claim 48 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, a carbide, or a carbonitride of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy.

51. (New) The coating of claim 48 further comprising a fourth layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said third layer.

52. (New) A decorative or shiny coating for an article, said coating comprising:

a first layer comprised of polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article; and

a sandwich layer comprised of alternating layers of compounds selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said first layer.

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53. (New) The coating of claim 52 wherein said first layer of polymeric material is selected from the group consisting of polycarbonate, polyester, polymethacrylate, polystyrene, acrylonitrile-butadiene-styrene, styrene-acrylonitrile, alkyd resin, polyethylene, and blends and copolymers thereof.

54. (New) The coating of claim 52 wherein said compound is selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxide, a carbide, or a carbonitride of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy.

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55. (New) The coating of claim 54 wherein said sandwich layer is comprised of alternating layers comprised of zirconium nitride and titanium nitride.

56. (New) The coating of claim 52 further comprising a top layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said sandwich layer.

57. (New) The coating of claim 52 further comprising a layer selected from the group consisting of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy disposed intermediate said first layer and said sandwich layer.

58. (New) A method for providing a decorative or shiny appearance to an article, said method comprising:

applying a first layer comprised of a polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article; and

applying a second layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said first layer.

59. (New) The method of claim 58 further comprising the step of applying a third layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said second layer.

60. (New) A method for providing a decorative or shiny appearance to an article, said method comprising:

applying a first layer comprised of a polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article;

applying a second layer comprised of zirconium, titanium or zirconium/titanium alloy on said first layer; and

applying a third layer comprised of a compound selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said second layer.

61. (New) The method of claim 60 further comprising the step of applying a fourth layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said third layer.

62. (New) A method for providing a decorative or shiny appearance to an article, said method comprising:

applying a first layer comprised of a polymeric material on at least a portion of the surface of said article; and

applying a sandwich layer comprised of alternating layers of compounds selected from the group consisting of zirconium compound, titanium compound or zirconium/titanium alloy compound on said first layer.

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63. (New) The method of claim 62 further comprising the step of applying a layer comprised of a polymeric material selected from the group consisting of polyurethane, polyacrylate or polymethacrylate on said sandwich layer.
